

Description
Method and System for Gift Delivery

Background of the Invention

5 **1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates generally to the purchase and delivery of standard size gifts directly from the store where the gift is purchased or from a central location such as a post office.

10 **2. Description of Related Art**

Mailing boxes exist for mailing compact disks. These boxes work for standard size CD jewel cases with either one or two disks. Envelopes can be bought with minimum postage already affixed for mailing simple letters.

15 **Summary of the Invention**

A method for delivering gifts of predetermined size and maximum weight, according to the present invention, includes the steps of selecting delivery boxes, each box selected of the proper size for a gift of the predetermined size; providing means for placing a proper delivery name and address on each box; affixing delivery
20 indicia on each box of the proper denomination for the maximum weight plus the weight of the box for a given carrier; placing a purchased gift into a box of the proper size and having the indicia for the proper denomination; closing the box; placing a proper delivery name and address on the box using the means for placing a proper delivery name and address; and delivering the closed box to the given carrier.

25 In one method according to the present invention, the gifts are compact disks in jewel cases. Some of the jewel cases contain one compact disk and some jewel cases contain two compact disks, so that they are the same size, but of different weights. In an embodiment where the given carrier is a postal carrier, the indicia is

a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a jewel case with two compact disks and a box.

5 In another embodiment, a method according to the present invention, the gifts are digital video disks (DVD's), each in a particular digital video disk case of a given size, some cases containing one digital video disk and some cases containing two digital video disks. In embodiments wherein the given carrier is a postal carrier, the indicia is a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a case with two digital video disks and a box.

10 In a method according to the present invention, wherein the given carrier is a freight carrier, the indicia is applied to a waybill for the freight carrier, which is affixed to the box, and the proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

In a method according to the present invention, wherein the given carrier is a ship carrier, the indicia is applied to a waybill for the ship carrier, which is affixed to the box, and the proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

15 A method according to the present invention, can also include the step of providing a gift card which for enclosing in or attaching to the box.

A system, according to the present invention, for delivering gifts of predetermined size and maximum weight, includes selected delivery boxes, each box selected of the proper size for a gift of the predetermined size; means for placing a proper delivery name and address on each box; delivery indicia on each box of the proper denomination for the maximum weight plus the weight of the box for a given carrier; wherein a purchased gift is placed into a box of the proper size and having the indicia for the proper denomination, and the box is then closed. A proper delivery name and address is placed on the box using the means for placing a proper delivery name and address and the closed box is delivered to the given carrier.

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A system according to The present invention, wherein the gifts are compact disks in jewel cases, some jewel cases containing one compact disk and some jewel cases containing two compact disks, and wherein the given carrier is a postal carrier,

and wherein the indicia is a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a jewel case with two compact disks and a box.

5 In one system according to the present invention, the gifts are digital video disks, each in a particular digital video disk case of a given size. Some cases contain one digital video disk and some cases containing two digital video disks. The given carrier is a postal carrier, and the indicia is a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a case with two digital video disks and a box.

10 In one system according to the present invention, the given carrier is a freight carrier, and the indicia is applied to a waybill for the freight carrier, which is affixed to the box. The proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

In another system according to the present invention, the given carrier is a ship carrier, and the indicia is applied to a waybill for the ship carrier, which is affixed to the box. Once again, the proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

15 A gift card can be enclosed in or attached to the box.

These and other objects, advantages and features of this invention will be apparent from the following description taken with reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein is shown a preferred embodiment of the invention.

20 **Brief Description of the Drawing**

FIGURE 1 is a pictorial representation of a system according to the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a pictorial representation of an alternative embodiment to part of a system according to the present invention; and

25 FIGURE 3 is a block diagram representation of a method according to the present invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring now to the figures, and in particular to Figure 1 and Figure 3, a system for delivering gifts of predetermined size and maximum weight, according to the present invention, is referred to generally by reference numeral 10 and a method is referred to generally by reference numeral 12. Method 12 includes the steps of selecting 14 delivery boxes 15, each box selected of the proper size for a gift of the predetermined size; providing 16 means 17 for placing a proper delivery name and address on each box; affixing 18 delivery indicia 19 on each box of the proper denomination for the maximum weight plus the weight of the box for a given carrier; placing 20 a purchased gift into a box of the proper size and having the indicia for the proper denomination; closing 22 the box; placing 24 a proper delivery name and address on the box using the means for placing a proper delivery name and address; and delivering 26 the closed box to the given carrier. Indicia can be applied directly to the box, but it can also be in the form of a stamp or stamps or label or other form affixed to the box.

In one method according to the present invention, the gifts are compact disks (CD's) in jewel cases 28. Some of the jewel cases 30 contain one compact disk and some jewel cases 32 contain two compact disks, so that they are the same size, but of different weights. In an embodiment where the given carrier is a postal carrier, the indicia is a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a jewel case with two compact disks and a box.

In another embodiment, a method according to the present invention, the gifts are digital video disks (DVD's), each in a particular digital video disk case of a given size, some cases containing one digital video disk and some cases containing two digital video disks. Pictorially, this is the same as Figure 1. In embodiments wherein the given carrier is a postal carrier, the indicia is a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a case with two digital video disks and a box.

Referring also to Figure 2, in a method according to the present invention, wherein the given carrier is a freight carrier, the indicia is applied to a waybill 34 for the freight carrier, which is affixed to the box, and the proper denomination is the indicator 36 for package weight.

5 In a method according to the present invention, wherein the given carrier is a ship carrier, the indicia is applied to a waybill for the ship carrier, which is affixed to the box, and the proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

A method according to the present invention, can also include the step of providing a gift card 38 which for enclosing in or attaching to the box.

10 System 10, according to the present invention, for delivering gifts of predetermined size and maximum weight, includes selected delivery boxes 15, each box selected of the proper size for a gift 28 of the predetermined size; means 17 for placing a proper delivery name and address on each box; delivery indicia 19 on each box of the proper denomination for the maximum weight plus the weight of the box
15 for a given carrier; wherein a purchased gift is placed into a box of the proper size and having the indicia for the proper denomination, and the box is then closed. A proper delivery name and address is placed on the box using the means for placing a proper delivery name and address and the closed box is delivered to the given carrier.

20 A system according to The present invention, wherein the gifts are compact disks in jewel cases 28, some jewel cases 30 containing one compact disk and some jewel cases 32 containing two compact disks, and wherein the given carrier is a postal carrier, and wherein the indicia is a postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a jewel case with two compact disks and a box.

25 In one system according to the present invention, the gifts are digital video disks, each in a particular digital video disk case of a given size. Some cases contain one digital video disk and some cases containing two digital video disks. Pictorially, this is the same as Figure 1. The given carrier is a postal carrier, and the indicia is a

postal indicia, and the proper denomination is the postage for a case with two digital video disks and a box.

5 In one system according to the present invention, the given carrier is a freight carrier, and the indicia is applied to a waybill for the freight carrier, which is affixed to the box. The proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

In another system according to the present invention, the given carrier is a ship carrier, and the indicia is applied to a waybill for the ship carrier, which is affixed to the box. Once again, the proper denomination is the indicator for package weight.

10 A gift card 38 can be enclosed in or attached to the box.

It can now be seen that the present system and method can be used by stores which sell gift items such as compact disks and digital video disks. A customer purchases a gift item and for a small additional fee can purchase a "delivery package" which is complete with postage or other shipping indicia and a gift card.
15 The customer can complete the address or have it printed by the store, sign the card and it is ready to go. The customer then simply gives it to the store clerk who puts it in an "out" bin for shipment. It requires minimum time for the store clerk and greatly reduces the chance for human error.

20 From the foregoing it will be seen that this invention is well adapted to attain all of the ends and objectives hereinabove set forth, together with other advantages which are inherent to the apparatus.

It will be understood that certain features and subcombinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of the claims.

25 As many possible embodiments may be made of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the figures of the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.